

*THE PARISHES OF
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST AND ST MARY MAGDALENE*

35 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LL

Bingham Avenue, Edinburgh EH15 3HY

Parish Priest: Fr. Jock Dalrymple: 0131 669 5447

Shared Parish House: 3 Sandford Gardens, EH15 1LP

Administrator: Pauline Connarty

Web address: www.stjohnsportobello.co.uk

Web address: www.stmarymagdalenes.co.uk

Joint e-mail for our sister parishes: stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26th April 2015

We continue to ask prayers this week especially for our two long-serving former parish priests, Fr Tom Hennessy, who is seriously ill in St Joseph's, and also for Mgr James Rae, who is still in Ward 1 in Liberton Hospital.

This weekend is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and you will find with this newsletter a letter from Archbishop Leo Cushley.

There will be a Special Collection at all Masses this weekend for the Ecclesiastical Students' Fund.

Many many thanks to all those who have handed in SCIAF 'wee boxes'. The total amount counted and banked so far from the sister parishes exceeds £2000. As you know, the UK Government will match every £1 donated to SCIAF via this scheme so we are delighted to have raised this substantial sum. **This is the final, final call for your 'wee boxes' and loose change** so dig deep and we will send a cheque to SCIAF for a bit more than this before the closing date in early May.

THIS WEEK

Sunday 26th April: Outing to Nunraw Abbey: Maria Igoe writes: 'Our minibus will leave St John's at 1pm and return at 7.30pm. The cost will be £8. Please bring a sandwich. Tea and biscuits will be supplied at the Monastery. If you wish to go, please give your name to me, 669 0247'.

Monday 27th April: 7pm: St Mary Magdalene's: Parents evening for P4 'Do This in Memory of Me' Confirmation candidates.

7.30pm: Lauriston Centre: SCHOOL OF PRAYER. The third in a series of workshops being run by the Jesuit Fathers: *Artistic Imagination and Prayer* (Fr Gero McLoughlin SJ)

Tuesday 28th April: 7.30pm: St Mary Magdalene's Hall: St Mary Magdalene's Pastoral Council Meeting.

7.00pm: St Patrick's Church, Cowgate: Inter Parish Archdiocesan Choir rehearsal for Pentecost Mass. (This Mass for Catholics who have recently been received into the Church will be held at St Patrick's Cowgate on the 23rd May, the Vigil of Pentecost, at 5pm. All are welcome to join the choir, and there is no audition. Please register by emailing Jacqueline.heron@staned.org.uk.)

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



SUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY 2nd MAY

10am to 1pm

St John's Church Hall, Brighton Place, Portobello.

Come along and enjoy teas, coffees and home baking, tombola, plant stall, face painting, and lots more!

All most welcome.

Wednesday 29th April: 7.00pm: Sacred Heart, Lauriston: Good News about Catholic Social Teaching with **Miriam McHardy**, diocesan Justice and Peace Co-ordinator.

7.30pm: Catholic Chaplaincy, 24 George Square, Edinburgh: *'Individual, Team & Corporate Responsibility in Business & Public Life'*, one in a series of fortnightly seminars exploring the relation between faith and practical ethics in daily life. See posters for further details or go to albertusinstitute.org

7.30pm: Cathedral House, 63 York Place, Edinburgh: 'Jesus Prayer' Meeting. ('The 'Jesus Prayer' Fellowship meet on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month. As in monastic communities, the 'Jesus Prayer' is practiced (in the style of the orthodox tradition) as a contemplative prayer under the guidance of a spiritual leader.'

April 29th, 30th & 1st May: 7:30pm: Churchill Theatre: Edinburgh Telephone Choir - 68th Annual Concert featuring *A Night at the Movies*: Musical Director Jerry Gregson, Accompanist Marion McPherson with guest artists KS Dance Academy and Broxburn & Livingston Brass Band. (*Remember their wonderful concert at St John's last December!*)

Saturday 2nd May: 9.30am: St Mary's Cathedral: First Saturday Fatima Devotions.

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

May 4th Bank Holiday Club Day: 'On Monday, 4 May, from 9am to 12:45pm, there will be a **holiday club day** at the halls and church on Bellfield Street (formerly the Old Parish, Portobello). School children in nursery (aged 3) to Primary 7 are welcome to attend. The day will include worship, crafts, games, drama, music, a bible story, and snack. This is a sneak peak at our plans for the summer holiday club scheduled for 20 July to 24 July. The cost to attend on 4 May is £1 per child. To register your child for this one day event, please email Michelle Brown at portobelloholidayclub@gmail.com'

Monday 4th May: 10.30am to 12noon: St Martin's Magdalene Drive: DEMENTIA FRIENDLY: a new venture taking place on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month, "The Friendly" is an informal gathering for those with dementia along with their carers to meet and make friends in a kindly setting, take part in activities or simply share and unwind. Please contact Nell on 669 4351 for further details or come along on the day. See posters at the back of both churches.'

Saturday 9th May: 10am to 12pm: Food Station, 1 Harrison Place, EH11 1SF: FRESH START SALE ... selling high quality items, fresh produce from the growing space, baking and hot drinks. If you would like to donate to the sale or volunteer as a helper please contact Jenny Baird on 476 7741 or jenny@freshstartweb.org.uk.

Sunday 10th May: 7.30pm: Portobello & Joppa Parish Church, Joppa: The Feast of Life: A Musical of Hope from Christian Aid. Tickets £5 (accompanied children free) from Ian Warwick 669-4906 or any Feast of Life Singers. Refreshments after the performance. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

'GROWTH IN PRAYER & REFLECTIVE LIVING'

October 2015 – April 2016

Christchurch Centre, 6a Morningside Road, Edinburgh.

Thursday evenings 7pm to 9.30pm.

This course is run by members of the Epiphany Group – an ecumenical group of women and men whose work is rooted in the Ignatian tradition. The aim of the course is to help participants develop and deepen their experience of prayer and live more reflectively. The method is primarily experience-based and reflective, and the course is open to those of any denomination and none. Application form and further details can be found at the back of each church. Applications should be made as soon as possible. For further information please contact Sharon Laidlaw 07557104380 or email Sharon.laidlaw@btinternet.com.

(This course comes with a personal recommendation from one of our own parishioners.)

NOTICEBOARD

ST JOHN'S PORTY TODDLER GROUP Tuesday 28th April: 10am to 11.30am: St John's Church Hall: A chance for pre-schoolers, siblings and parents to get crafting, playing, snacking, chatting and having fun. Craft materials and snacks provided for little ones. Tea and biscuits for parents. (£3 for 2 yrs + and £1 for under 2's.) For more information on events request to join our Facebook Group 'St Johns Porty Toddler Group' or send your contact details to stjohnsandstmarymagdalenes@gmail.com.

FRESH START: Sponsored Walk will take place on Friday 29th May ... setting out at 10am from Jubilee Gardens, Stockbridge, and walking an 8 mile route along the Water of Leith, around Colinton Dell and on to the Union Canal towpath, finishing at the Fresh Start Food Station at Harrison Place where lunch will be served. This popular event helps to raise vital funds for FRESH START to support the most vulnerable in our community to move forward in their lives after homelessness. Walk as an individual or a team and raise money to support FRESH START. No registration fee, but entrants are asked to raise a minimum of £25 per person. To register please phone 0131 476 7741 or go to admin@freshstartweb.org.uk.

PARISH REGISTER

Please pray for those whose have died recently, including: Isabel Casey

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including: Margaret Connelly, Mary Robertson, Margot Tweedie, James Passmore, Hans Janik, William Corrigan, Christopher Rourke, Alexander Hunter, Jean Flucker, Marion Holligan, Keith Rostant, Jean Dickson, William Meenan, Iain Wilson, Patrick Taylor, Catherine Tracy, Joseph Cunningham, Frank Irvine, Alexander Durkin, Marjory Gilchrist, Margaret Laughlan, Alexander Wallace, Anne Brennan and Owen Connarty.

Please pray for the sick of our sister parishes, including:

Sick Parishioners - St. John's: Jimmy Boyle, Michele Grandone, Mgr James Rae, Gerry Gallagher, Maureen Lawrie, Jude Payne, Maria Domenica Crolla, Mary Grady, Baby Ailsa Fitzgerald, Jane McGuire, Mona Scoular, Kathy & Jimmy Gallagher, Jenny Wormald, Erin Corbett, Mary Florence & Bob Crabbe, Fay Dignan, Sheila Alexander, Roz Byers, Pat Kershaw, Michael & Mamie Richards, Pat Kershaw, Joan Howie, Helen Harrison, Cathy McGravie, Alf Macnamara, Marie Angela Crolla, Dolores Jones, Malachy Meehan, Jane Murray, Ann Ward, Gerry Houston, and Lorraine Syme.

Sick Parishioners - St. Mary Magdalene's: Fr Tom Hennessy, Pat Gilmartin, Betty McEwing, Annie Watson, Anne McGeachie, Mary Robertson, Maria Juska, Isobel Phillips, David O'Donnell, Andrew Banks, Silvia Berry, Tony Matrundala, Jude Ferguson, Mary & James Muir, Liz Davis, Rose McKay and Denis Davidson.

Please pray for sick friends and relatives of parishioners, including: Veronica Mackenzie, William and Hugh Mcgeady, Hew Dalrymple, Peter Kent, Isabel Bolus, Valentino and Paloma Rivera, Isabel McInrue, Jeanette Amos, Anne Gallagher, Denise O'Donnell, Margaret Davis, Dorothy Jamal, John Allan, Jane Morton, Christopher Browne, Christian and John Parham, Conor Kerrigan, Rupert Ridge, Vera Hawkes, Maria St. Denis, Marie Crolla, Margaret Rose, and baby Ray Donovan Syme.

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

Readers for this Sunday: Laura Tweedie & John Wallace

... and for next Sunday: Sam Henry & Tessa Haring

Bidding Prayers: Kate Neilson

Bidding Prayers: Jean Douglas

FOOD PARCEL SERVICE: If you would like to donate to the food parcel service supporting families in the local community, please leave donations of tinned food in the box provided at the back of the Church. Tins of tuna, hotdogs and meatballs would be much appreciated, as would any toiletries you can donate. These will be distributed from St Teresa of Lisieux Parish who are helping 8 to 10 families per week.

... AND A REMINDER that St Mary Magdalene's Pastoral Council Meeting will take place this Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm in the Hall.

St. John's

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jimmy Boyle - who celebrates his birthday this week ... and best wishes too for a speedy recovery!

... AND NOT TO BE MISSED! St John's Summer Fayre next Saturday 2nd May 10am to 1pm. See front page of newsletter for further details. All welcome. Bring a friend!

Reflection: 'Take Time'

Take time to think: it is the source of power.
Take time to read: it is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to play: it is the secret of staying young.
Take time to be quiet: it is the opportunity to see God.
Take time to be aware: it is the opportunity to help others.
Take time to love and be loved: it is God's greatest gift.
Take time to laugh: it is the music of the soul.
Take time to be friendly: it is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream: it is what the future is made of.
Take time to pray: it is the greatest power on earth.

Author Unknown.

Offertory Collection on 18th & 19th April 2015

St Mary Magdalene's - £ 225.02 St John's - £ 1119.22

MANY THANKS

Masses, Devotions and Services

	St John the Evangelist	St Mary Magdalene
Saturday 25th April <i>FEAST OF ST MARK THE EVANGELIST</i>	10.00am Mass: Pierrino Crolla 6.30pm Vigil Mass: Fr Thomas Flynn	
Sunday 26th April 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY)</i>	9.30am Mass: Margaret Connelly	11.15am Mass : People of the Parish
Monday 27th April	10.00am Mass: Kitty & Bertie di Marco 7pm to 8pm: <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Tuesday 28th April <i>Memorial of St Peter Chanel & Memorial of St Louis Grignon de Montfort</i>	10.00am: Eucharistic Service	7.00pm Mass: Isabel Casey
Wednesday 29th April <i>FEAST OF ST CATHERINE OF SIENA</i>	10.00am Mass: SI – Sick Person	
Thursday 30th April <i>Memorial of St Pius V</i>	10.00am Mass: SI – Sick Person	
Friday 1st May <i>Memorial of St Joseph the Worker</i>	10.00am Mass: Linda Wisbach (Mass followed by Rosary.) 3pm to 4pm: <i>Divine Mercy Devotions</i>	
Saturday 2nd May <i>MEMORIAL OF ST ATHANASIUS</i>	10.00am: Eucharistic Service 6.30pm Vigil Mass: Canon Felix Connolly	10.00am Mass: SI – Sick Person
Sunday 3rd May 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am Mass – with baptism of Gaia Czermak Fr James Byers 1.15pm: Baptism of Ellis Barrett	11.15am Mass with baptism of Josh, Junior and Orla Crolla: People of the Parish

Hesed

‘The Hebrew word *Hesed* expresses two things: fidelity and tenderness. In our civilization we can be tender but unfaithful, and faithful without tenderness. Our world is waiting for communities of tenderness and fidelity. They are coming.’

Jean Vanier, ‘Community & Growth’, p63.

A REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR THE 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
BY THE LATE FR MICHAEL HOLLINGS

The Good Shepherd lays down his life and takes it up again. In this is the fulfilment of the mission that the Father gave Christ to complete and so in this he is glorified. Christ is, then, the unique source of salvation for everyone; hence, the early preaching of the apostles insists on this. For all those who believe in Christ, there is a destiny already mapped out – to be like God, to ‘see him as he really is’.

What was Jesus’ vocation in life? Today’s Gospel and all the Gospel passages help us to answer the question. How did Jesus know of his vocation, how did he come to know of his Father’s will? Jesus was divine, he knew what his Father was to ask of him. I often ask what does the Father want me to do with the life he has given me. The answers are not always clear. I am confused. I have my doubts. Yes, I have anxieties. It was different for Jesus – or was it! I like the intimacy of Jesus and his Father. I like the times when I hear that Jesus goes alone to pray. I like that because I can identify myself with Jesus. I suppose that as Jesus journeyed through his life he too experienced difficulty.

Upon reflection, Jesus and I are not that separate in identifying our vocations and saying yes to the Father’s will. I draw strength from knowing that I am a unique creation in God’s hands. There will never exist anyone like me from the beginning of time to its end. So too I have a unique purpose in life. I may come to glimpse God’s creative plan for me, or I may not. I am sure that I have purpose and that the Father will use me as his instrument.

Whether I see it or not, I do know that I must not allow myself to feel I am not worthy. I am worthy of God’s calling. For some of us, we can see God’s plan in our lives: a commitment in marriage; to lead a particular way of life in caring for the sick; teaching our children, or in service at God’s table; in proclaiming the Word of God; as a religious sister, brother or priest. With reflection and prayer I discern God’s call. In openness we offer our very selves. The opposite may be to say this is the honourable thing to do, when deep down within you know it is not right – to do so is to do violence to yourself. God want what is good for you. In the Father’s desire for us all, he wants us to be fully whole and holy, fully human, a creation of love that communicates God’s love. It is our daily duty to talk and pray openly with our Father to sustain our calling: the very way in which Jesus found comfort in the Father’s guidance.